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STATE CAPITOL
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

November 23, 1971

DEPARTMENT OF LAW LETTER OPINION NO. 74-1-L (R-1)

REQUESTED BY: THE HONORABLE RONALD J. GREENHALGH
Graham County Attorney

QUESTION: May the notaries public in the State of Arizona begin using a stamp for their official seal without being in conflict with A.R.S. § 41-312.5 which refers to an engraved official seal?

ANSWER: Yes.

A.R.S. § 41-312.5 provides:

Notaries public shall, when requested:


* * *

5. Provide and keep official seals upon which shall be engraved the words "Notary Public," the name of the county for which they are commissioned, and the name of the notary. (Emphasis added.)

"Engraving" is defined as the art of producing on hard material incised or raised patterns, characters, lines and the like, from which an impression or print is taken. See American Historical Co. v. Clark, 316 Ill.App. 309, 44 N.E.2d 761 (1942).

Therefore, an official seal in the form of a stamp which is engraved with the words "Notary Public", the county in which the notary is commissioned, and the name of the notary would be within the contemplation of A.R.S. § 41-312.5.

Respectfully submitted,


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The Attorney General

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